

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q94726

Eiji HAYASHI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/577,913

Group Art Unit: 4143

Confirmation No.: 6881

Examiner: Doron D FIELDS

Filed: May 1, 2006

For: BALL SCREW DEVICE

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the Election of Species Requirement, dated January 25, 2008. The Examiner has identified the application as containing claims directed to more than one distinct species. The Examiner has required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. The Examiner believes claims 1 and 7 are generic. Applicants have been advised that a response to this requirement shall include an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon.

In response to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species III, without traverse. The Examiner asserts that claims 1 and 7 are generic and that claim 4 reads on the elected species. Applicants agree with the Examiner, but further assert that dependent claims 2 and 3 also read on elected Species III. In particular, Species III is directed to a ball screw device wherein the holding member covers 60% or more of a part of the circulating member.

This holding member can be manufactured by a sheet metal press processing (as recited in claim 2) or a drawing processing (as recited in claim 3). Thus, in addition to examining generic claims 1 and 7 and dependent claim 4, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner also examine dependent claims 2 and 3. Thus, in summary, it is believed that claims 1-4 and 7 read on the elected species.

Applicants submit that if any of the elected claims is found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicants reserve the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 5 and 6.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

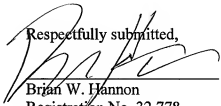
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Date: March 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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